

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of an Office Action dated January 26, 2006. In this response Applicants have amended claims 11, 18, 20, and 21 to correct minor informalities. Following entry of these amendments, claims 11-14, 18, 20-25, and 28 are pending in the application.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

Allowable Subject Matter

As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the PTO's indication, on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 11-14, 18, 20-25, and 28 contain allowable subject matter.

Telephonic Interview Conducted on April 25, 2006

During a telephonic interview conducted on April 25, 2006, Examiner Broadhead and Mr. Strain discussed the outstanding rejection under §112, second paragraph, and the amendments set forth above. Based upon his initial review, Examiner Broadhead indicated that the amendments, set forth above, appeared to overcome all of the outstanding rejections under §112. Examiner Broadhead indicated that he would fully consider the amendments when submitted in a response to the outstanding Office Action.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 2 of the Office Action, the PTO has rejected claims 11-14, 18, 20-25, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In this response, Applicants have amended claims 11, 18, 20, and 21 in the manner discussed with Examiner Broadhead during the telephonic interview noted above. These amendments do not narrow the scope of any of these claims, *i.e.* the claims remain at least as broad in scope as they were prior to entry of the amendments.

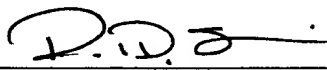
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding rejections under §112 are now moot and that the application is now in *prima facie* allowable form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.